

16 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Air Force Personnel Concerning Scientific Advisory Panel Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, dated 17 January 1953 (Secret)

1. A meeting was convened this date with representatives of the Air Force to discuss what steps should be taken concerning the subject report in order to take care of inquiries such as the letters written by Mr. Leon Davidson. Mr. Davidson has been most insistent upon getting the entire report released. The full report is classified "Secret." A declassified version is available, a copy of which was given to Mr. Davidson.

2. The following personnel were at the meeting:

Mr. Philip G. Strong	DAD/C/SI, CIA
Major Joseph E. Boland	SAF LL-3
Major James F. Byrne	AFCIN-X1A
Major Lawrence J. Tacker	SAFIS
Dr. A. Francis Arcier	ATIC
Mr. George Cary	Legislative Counsel, CIA
Mr. W. E. Lexow	OSI, CIA

3. Paragraph 3 of the report cites examples of actions that could be taken by an enemy with possibly dangerous consequences to national security. This is the principal reason that the entire report cannot be declassified. This was agreed to in the meeting. In addition, it was pointed out by Mr. Strong that several of the panel members specifically requested that while they had no objection to their names being used in connection with the report, they did not want their names connected to the Central Intelligence Agency. So far it is believed that all connections between the panel members and CIA have been made by unofficial personnel.

4. In dealing specifically with Mr. Davidson it was agreed that Major Tacker would answer for the DCI at the same time that he was answering for the Air Forces. (Mr. Davidson sent a copy of his letter to Major Tacker to the DCI for a response.)

5. Mr. Strong pointed out that perhaps the best way to forestall any future inquiries along these lines was to put out a press release covering the subject of unidentified flying objects, utilizing the panel report as much as possible. Major Boland agreed

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that this was perhaps the best way to handle it, inasmuch as in his capacity of Legislative Liaison, it would best satisfy congressional requirements. Major Tacker will draft an Air Force press release, clearing it through the various sections of the Air Force, and will then submit it to Mr. Cary for Agency review. Mr. Cary will consult with the Office of Security, Mr. Strong, and the undersigned when he receives the draft press release.

6. The Air Force representatives believe that much of the trouble they have been having with Major Keyhoe along these same lines could be alleviated if the Major did not have such important personages as Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, USN (Ret.), former DCI, on the board of governors of his organization. They suggested that perhaps if the Admiral was shown the Secret panel report he would understand and take appropriate actions. Mr. Cary said that he would relate this suggestion to Mr. Houston (General Counsel).

7. Major Boland suggested that it might be advisable to contact the panel members to consider a rewording of the panel report somewhat along the lines that Dr. Menzel suggested in his letter to all the members of the panel. Dr. Menzel has received the unclassified version from Mr. Leon Davidson. Mr. Strong feels that this may be inadvisable at the present time, inasmuch as the report has already been made available to the public and any change may arouse suspicion. However, he will contact Dr. Robertson and discuss this.

W. E. LEXOW
Chief, Applied Science Division, SI

Distribution:
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2 - ASD/SI
1 - Mr. Chapin (Ass't to the DCI)
1 - Mr. Cary (Leg. Counsel)
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